

MEMO FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Interview by National Institute of Public Affairs (NIPA) Panel.

1. On 23 Feb 65, from 1700 until 1735, the writer was interviewed by Messrs. GRANT and STOVER at the NIPA offices, Suite 410, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. The intent of this memo is to record the atmosphere of the interview, to review the material covered and to provide some guidance which might assist future candidates.

2. Both GRANT and STOVER were affable, friendly and relaxed and they set the tone for a very pleasant interview. STOVER is the elder of the two (perhaps in his early 40's) and after a few introductory remarks by GRANT, he took charge of the discussion. The initial questions were directed toward the universities in which the writer had expressed interest. Why had I chosen those schools? What general or particular courses did I have in mind? To clarify this point, I should emphasize that they didn't stress courses, per se. They pointed out that almost no NIPA Fellow pursues a course leading to a degree, and their interest in my choice of courses was merely a means of exploring what I intended to derive from such a year of study. I received the impression (and I must insert the cautionary note here that I may be very wrong) that what I had to say on this point was perhaps less important to them than how I said it). Let me enlarge on this. In my answers, I stressed the unique responsibilities of the Agency in world-wide activities, and the corresponding responsibility of our office (OS) in supporting those programs. But to support, we must be knowledgeable of the political, economic and cultural milieu of the various foreign areas, to an unprecedented degree, so that we can bring to the operational components, both security and area knowledge.

3. Here are some examples of a few specific questions:

Why had I entered, and why had I remained in Government service?

How did I envision my own future career?

Would I consider a career in another Government Agency? (at a future date)

How do I spend my leisure time?

3. (continued)

How had I heard of the NIPA Program?

4. I would stress, once again, that all these questions were posed in a most informal, relaxing, and hence free and easy fashion. They elicit narrative responses - often at some length. For example, at one point, we got into a discussion of educational systems, and I broached the subject of the Montessori method. (A system devised in the first decade of the 20th Century for the education of children). I have conducted enough interviews myself to realize quite well that their interest was not in Montessori, nor even in what I had to say about it, but in the degree of intellectual stimulation to be derived from such a discussion, and how I presented the subject.

5. Perhaps the most interesting single question posed in the course of the interview came from Mr. GRANT. He asked whether I considered the clandestine nature of the Agency's operations to be a threat to our democratic institutions. I must confess that I took off on this one. Beginning with the decision of George Washington to dispatch Nathan Hale on a clandestine assignment, down through the Agency Charter, which specifically debies us arrest or punitive power in the US, I pointed out that under the stringent limitations intrinsic within our Agency, we pose no threat to our democratic institutions, but that if our operations are not properly and securely carried out, our foreign policy is weakened, hence I am a candidate, i.e. to insure the more professional and secure accomplishment of the Agency mission.

6. In summary, it was an enjoyable and stimulating interview. In all candor, I do not think it will result in my receiving the award, but the experience was rewarding.


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Remarks: Attached is a report by [REDACTED] on his meeting with NIPA officials.

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